

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DLOS-06 ACDA-07 /116 W
----- 035871

R 300542Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8017
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, XO, IN, US
SUBJECT: NO QUICK ANSWERS TO INDIAN OCEAN GREAT POWER PROBLEMS

1. RESPONDING TO A WRITTEN QUESTION FROM TWO COMMUNIST (CPI) MEMBERES OF THE LOK SABHA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER Y.B. CHAVAN ON AUGUST 26 SAID THE DIEGO GARCIA BASE CAME IN FOR STRONG CRITICISM DURING THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. CHAVAN ADDED THAT THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED A FORMULATION CON-DEMNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN AND IMPERIALIST MILITARY BASES BY THE GREAT POWERS IN PURSUIT OF THEIR STRATEGIC INTERESTS, AS WELL AS THE ESCALATION OF GREAT POWER MILITARY RIVALRY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

2. CHAVAN'S COMMUNIST INTERLOCUTORS UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT TO HAVE THE MINISTER NAME THE UNITED STATES AS THE ONLY OFFENDING POWER. THE MINISTER MENTIONES THE FRENCH BASE AT DJIBOUTI, BUT ADHERED OTHERWIEN TO HIS GREAT POWER
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FOMULATION. WHEN QUESTIONES AS TO WHETHER THERE WERE ANY

PROTESTS "TO THE UNITED STATES TO REMOVE THE NUCLEAR BASE FROM DIEGO GARCIA," THE MINISTER SAID: "....WE HAVE MANY TIMES STATED OUR VIEWS BILATERALLY TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE I HAVE MORE THAN ONCE EMPHASIZED THIS ASPECT OF INDIA'S POINT OF VIEW. OF COURSE WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THAT."

3. PUSHED FURTHER, THE MINISTER FELL BACK UPON THE STANDARD GOI FORMULATION THAT EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE LITORAL STATES AND ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT MANIPULATED BY OTHERS IN THE EVENTUAL CONFERENCE WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CONCERNED POWERS. THE MINISTER DENIED BANGLADESH HAD EVER MENTIONED INDIA AS A NAVAL THREAT OR A GREAT POWER IN THE OCEAN DURING THE COLOMBO PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT WHAT THE BANGLADESHIS HAD SAID WAS IGNORED BY OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS INDIA. THE MINISTER CLOSED HIS COMMENTS BY SAYING THESE (INDIAN OCEAN) PROBLEMS MUST BE PATIENTLY WORKED OUT. "THERE CANNOT BE ANY QUICK ANSWERS FOR IT IN A SHORT TIME." SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, DIEGO GARCIA, MILITARY BASES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE12691
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760366-1705
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976087/aaaaafmn.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NO QUICK ANSWERS TO INDIAN OCEAN GREAT POWER PROBLEMS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, XO, IN, US, (CHAVAN, Y B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006